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Eisenberg's will: The plot thickens

Business & Finance, Page 8

Gezer field gets a face-lift

World of Sport

Clint Eastwood has 'Absolute Power' at Cannes

Arts & Entertainment, Page 7

Index

Arts & Entertainment7
Business8
Crossword11
Movies/TV11
Opinion6
Sports10



Holocaust remembered
Holocaust survivors David Monk (left) and Mordechai Fuchs prepare to lay a wreath at the memorial ceremony at Yad Vashem yesterday. Reports, Page 3.

Israel to offer gestures to PA

By MICHAL YUDELMAN, BATSHEVA TSUR, and HILLEL KUTTLER

The government is expected by diplomatic sources to adopt a more flexible policy and propose a number of gestures to the Palestinians.

Netanyahu met with Weizman last night in lay the groundwork for the president's meeting with Arafat. The meeting was arranged with the active participation of the US, whose special Middle East coordinator, Dennis Ross, is to arrive tomorrow.

with Arafat, including sessions with cabinet secretary Danny Naveh and Netanyahu's confidant and envoy, attorney Yitzhak Molcho.

At Netanyahu's request, Molcho will join the president and his bureau chief, Arze Shamer, at the meeting, which is to be attended from the Palestinian side by Arafat, Mahmoud Abbas, Yasser Abed Rabbo, and Ahmed Tibi. The president is also to meet privately with Arafat.

Weizman also consulted with Mordechai, General Security Service head Ami Ayalon, Foreign Minister David Levy, and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

"Everything is being done in coordination with the prime minister," Shumer said.

Meanwhile, Ross is to leave for Israel tonight and begin meetings with Israeli and Palestinian officials tomorrow, US administration officials confirmed yesterday. The US peace process team is delaying its arrival by a day in order not to overshadow the Weizman-Arafat meeting.

A US official said he hopes the summit gets the Ross mission off to a "good start," but does not expect Weizman and Arafat to produce a breakthrough.

Continued on Page 8

Israel, Jordan to build peace park at Naharayim, Page 2

Abu Marzook arrives in Jordan, Page 2

in an effort to resume the peace process.

A breakthrough with the Palestinians, after several weeks of complete severance between the sides, is hoped to be achieved at the meeting between President Ezer Weizman and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat this evening at the Israeli side of the Erez checkpoint at the entrance to the Gaza Strip.

"We are very optimistic. We hope the president will break the ice and get the process back on track," one of the senior Israeli officials planning the visit said yesterday.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu met with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Foreign Minister David Levy yesterday, and the three decided on gestures to be made towards the Palestinians. These are to be presented to the cabinet tomorrow for approval.

Netanyahu met with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Foreign Minister David Levy yesterday, and the three decided on gestures to be made towards the Palestinians. These are to be presented to the cabinet tomorrow for approval.

Weizman appears to be determined to play more than a merely formal role and get results out of his meeting with Arafat, which will lead to the resumption of negotiations.

Yesterday, he held a series of meetings in preparation for his talk

COMMENT

Tragedies beyond number

By JOEL REBIBO

Numbers don't mean much when it comes to tragedies, be they on the scale of the Holocaust or mere national plagues like traffic fatalities. Six million? How much more grief and horror can we muster up for six million than we can for five million, or four?

How many were killed on our roads last year? How many children orphaned? How many people crippled? Numbers numb. They mean nothing, because at a certain point the senses shut down, just as the body goes into shock when the pain gets too great.

The only way to regain feeling, even for just a moment, is to focus on individual accidents, like that of my friend Shmuel Grunfeld, who was buried yesterday. He was driving his wife and children from Efrat to Jerusalem on Sunday morning, when a truck veered out of control and came straight at

him. He didn't have a chance.

His wife, who underwent surgery for a broken spine on Sunday night, is fighting for her life; two children are with her in the hospital - one with a broken pelvis, who needs surgery, and another with a broken jaw and an injured foot.

His son, the 12-year-old who recited kaddish for his father in a remarkably steady voice yesterday, came out with "light" injuries. Two other young children are at home, failing to comprehend why their parents still haven't come back from Jerusalem.

Shmuel, who immigrated from the US, was an extremist, in the positive sense of the word. A rabbi who taught in the Shvut Yisrael hesder yeshiva, combining Torah study and army service, he was known for his fanatic devotion to his students.

"When we were in the army, he

called our homes every week to see how we were and to ask if we needed anything," said Yossi, 21, from Tel Aviv. "When students were stationed at Har Gillo, he'd bring them pizza and soft drinks. He had as many as eight guys over for dinner at a time... He wouldn't think twice about lending his car out to students. He gave of himself totally."

He was equally uncompromising when it came to his pursuit of excellence in Torah scholarship.

"He was already in the study hall at 6:20 a.m. when people gathered for the early morning *deaf yomi* Talmud lesson, and he was there as late as 10 p.m.," said Rafi Roness, a colleague at the yeshiva.

I knew Shmuel from the years before he began teaching in Efrat. We studied Talmud together, or rather he taught me, and I once needed his help in footnoting a book I was editing on Judaism. His recall was incredible. He was

able to instantly locate the source of just about any Jewish saying or idea.

Incredibly, for a scholar of his caliber, he was able to study with the widest possible range of people, from children of new immigrants to adults pressed for time who wanted quality learning at odd hours of the day. One former student at the funeral had been kicked out of a long list of schools, and Shmuel studied with him for several months until he was able to gain admission to one of the top schools in Jerusalem.

"How are you, my friend?" was his traditional greeting.

On Sunday morning, he was bringing the parchments for the tefillin of his son, Shlomi, to a scribe to be inserted in their leather boxes. Shmuel won't be there for his son's bar mitzva and the lives of his wife and children will be forever changed, because a dump truck swerved out of control.

Manbar indicted

By RAINE MARCUS

International businessman and arms dealer Nahum Manbar, 51, was indicted in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday on charges of espionage, selling arms to a hostile state, and assisting a country at war with Israel.

Manbar, who insists that all arms deals with Iran were conducted with the government's knowledge, will remain in custody until his trial.

Manbar was charged with selling chemical warfare substances to Iran. His lawyer, Amnon Zichroni, said his client maintains his innocence.

According to the indictment, parts of which were classified, Manbar, a former paratroop officer, met with Dr. Majid A. Basfor in or around 1990, via an Iranian intermediary, dubbed Hashmi. At the time, Basfor was the head of the Iranian government's chemical warfare program.

Basfor asked Manbar to pro-

vide Iran with chemicals and other materials used to produce chemical weapons, and to train a team



Nahum Manbar (Israel Sun)

work in factories there. A contract was signed, and from 1990 to 1994, Manbar fulfilled it. By mid-1994, Manbar had received \$16 million from the Iranians for his services.

Manbar, the indictment said, provided the Iranians with material to manufacture nerve and mustard gas.

Continued on Page 8

PA returns car of Meretz councilman

By ELI WOHLGELERNTER

Talk about friends in high places.

Less than 48 hours after Jerusalem City Councilman Ornan Yekutieli (Meretz) had his car stolen he was back behind the wheel, thanks to the help of Palestinian Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub.

When Yekutieli discovered on Sunday morning that his three-year-old car was gone, he started calling friends in eastern Jerusalem, a doctor and a teacher, for help.

It was not so much the car that bothered him, he said.

"I had my briefcase in the car, with all the papers I have in the world - lists of names, activists, donors - everything. I was totally hysterical. I said if they find who has the car, tell them they can keep it, just give me back my briefcase."

"They started calling everyone they knew, and soon enough it was in the hands of Jibril Rajoub. The story spread so fast, that at every checkpoint of the

PA people were looking for the car.

"In the afternoon I got a message that they found the car, so I called Rajoub and thanked him. He said when we have a really normal peace between our two societies, then we'll have coordination between our police forces all the time, and this will be a regular occurrence in these kinds of cases."

Yekutieli knows how lucky he was, considering the statistics on stolen cars.

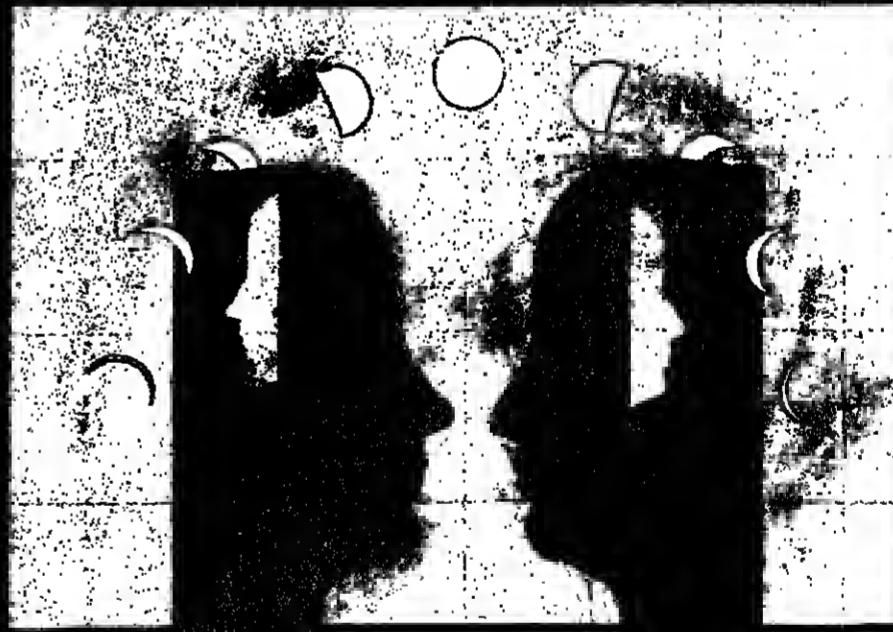
"I think it was luck, and good connections - part of the fact is that I'm well known in eastern Jerusalem. I have a column in *Al-Kuds*," he said.

When he went to Bethlehem yesterday afternoon to pick up the car, "they had fixed the ignition, and gave me a new key, because the thieves had broken it. And that's the story."

What about the important brief-

case? Yekutieli laughed. "They took the briefcase, and my ID, but they emptied most of the papers on the back seat."

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Knesset mourns child Holocaust victims

By LIAT COLLINS

Against the backdrop of the Chagall tapestry depicting the history of the Jewish people, the Knesset yesterday held its annual "Every person has a name" ceremony marking Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day.

President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, the chief rabbis and other dignitaries attended.

At the end of the ceremony, a Torah scroll in memory of the children who perished in the Holocaust was dedicated in the Knesset's synagogue, in what Netanyahu described as an act symbolizing the continuation of the Jewish people and its history.

Netanyahu also announced his intention to travel to Birkenau next year with Israeli children and IDF soldiers to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the State of Israel and give expression to the greatest victory of any people — the victory against all the laws of history.

He called on survivors to submit their testimonies to Yad Vashem.

At the beginning of the Knesset ceremony, a special six-branched candelabrum, signifying the six million who died, was lit. A children's choir sang "Eil, Eil," written by Hanna Szenes, the Jewish parachutist from the Yishuv captured and killed by the Germans.

The Knesset ceremony, like others around the country, was dedicated to the theme of children in the Holocaust. Tichon opened with the chilling account of children taken from Auschwitz to Hamburg, where they continued to be subjected to "medical" experiments. They were killed 18 days before the end of the war in Europe.

"Their world was a cold one of torture," he said. "Each one of these children had a name. And they will never be forgotten."

Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron read Kaddish, "for those who could not recite for their parents, and those parents who could not recite for their children."

As was done at ceremonies around the globe yesterday, one by one, the officials read out the names of children whose lives were cut short, in misery, forever

aged two, three, five or 10.

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Meir Lau recalled his own experiences as a six-year-old, trying to look older, and making his first public speech to persuade a new labor camp commandant that he was fit to work and worth saving. He told how his brother, Naftali Lavie, constantly protected him, carrying him into Buchenwald in a sack so they wouldn't be parted. He told of an encounter with a Gentile Czech doctor, who saved his life by reducing the dose of an injection. And he recounted how he searched the walking skeletons that left Bergen-Belsen to try to find his mother.

"To this day, I still search. I will never find my mother, but I have found a home and homeland," he said.

Former Knesset speaker Dov Shilansky, who initiated the "Every person has a name" project, told how he could not read out the names of all the children he had known and played with "who were sent to Auschwitz, crying, 'Mama! Ich will leben!' [Mummy, I want to live.] And the world heard and was silent."

Another former speaker, Shevah Weiss, recalled the children he had known in his Polish village, most of whom were killed in the local slaughterhouse, hanged on meat hooks.

He, too, recalled the skeletal people around him and said: "That's why I can't keep quiet when I see the child skeletons of Rwanda."

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai read the names of Baghdad children who died. Labor Party Secretary General Nissim Zivli said his family had been saved by Arabs who had smuggled them from their south Tunisian village to a safer place in the heart of the country. Maj-Gen. (res.) Yossi Peled also spoke of the Righteous Gentiles in Belgium who had saved him and raised him until his mother returned from Auschwitz.

MK Maxim Levy (Gesher) called for unity between Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jews. His brother, Foreign Minister David Levy, speaking before the installation of the Torah scroll, said that, although the children had died in the Holocaust, "the holy letters of their names hover all around us."



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu carries a Torah that is being installed in the Knesset synagogue yesterday, in memory of the children murdered in the Holocaust, as Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon looks on. (Joac Hamez)

AMCHA hot line receives hundreds of calls

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Haunted by the voices of the past, hundreds of Holocaust survivors and their families found an empathetic ear yesterday in the AMCHA staffers manning the organization's hot line.

Ready to simply hear their stories, or help them get through a particularly difficult day, the staff at AMCHA — the National Israeli Center for Psychological Support of Survivors of the Holocaust and the Second Generation — ignored budgetary difficulties to make callers feel they had reached what veteran staffer Ruth Gruschka called "home."

Inspired by what AMCHA director-general John Lemberger referred to as "emotional triggers," such as the massive offerings regarding the Holocaust on television, hundreds of calls were fielded in AMCHA's four offices and at similar centers in Netanya and Kfar Sava set up with AMCHA's help.

In a normal week, they generally receive a dozen or so calls. Lemberger said Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day is "the one day that we have the greatest influx of clients." They are offered services ranging from individual counseling to group, family, or couple therapy, or documentation of their story.

Many were calling "because they want everyone to know their story," explained Tali Brin, who was manning the phones in Jerusalem yesterday morning. "Some specifically mention programs they've seen about the Holocaust. They say: 'Where did they get my story from?' Some said they feel like every day is Holocaust Remembrance Day, that it's something that never ends. But this day is their day, and people take notice of them today."

Others just wanted someone to listen, as in the case of one survivor "who just told me his entire life story. Our job is to listen, because the moment you cut someone off, they lose their train of thought. So I listened to him, and let him have this catharsis that he needed. Then he felt better." Brin explained.

Gruschka got a different kind of call, which she said was also typical. It was from a woman whose father was a survivor. Holocaust Remembrance

Day is "difficult for me," she explained to Gruschka, telling her that her father would rarely speak about his experiences, and that she wanted to know more about how her father's shilings had "been destroyed."

"On a day like this, she said, she is more aware of her suffering," Gruschka explained. "When she used the word 'destroyed,' I understood that she is also psychologically prepared to confront what happened, however painful. And this, on a day like this, comes more to the fore than on other days, and it's easier for people to permit themselves to use such a hot line. They feel less embarrassed."

Gruschka explained to the woman that sometimes parents have difficulty talking about their experiences because they are afraid they will be overwhelmed by their emotions, or want to protect their children.

AMCHA's services are under pressure because of the government's decision last year to cut funding to the organization, which received some NIS 600,000 in 1996. Lemberger says the cut threatens the organization's work, but he is "cautiously optimistic" the government will see that the cuts are hurting Israel's image abroad.

"The budget has a financial element, but also a moral element," he says. The cuts also upset the survivors, who see them as an example of how the state does not properly address their needs.

Meanwhile, AMCHA has widened its services to include a chat and subscription news group on the Internet, where survivors can create a cyber-support group for each other. Dr. Natan Kellerman, the chief psychologist for the Jerusalem office, said this week's initial chat session raised several interesting issues, including how to mark the Holocaust during the Pessah Seder.

The AMCHA website can be found at <http://www.amcha.org>

Yesterday, however, it was the phone lines that were providing the essential link with survivors.

AMCHA hot line numbers:
Jerusalem: (02) 625-0634, 625-0745, 624-7367, 623-3644
Tel Aviv: (03) 566-5701/2/3
Haifa: (04) 837-5649
Beersheba: (07) 627-0224



Motorists stand at attention in Jerusalem yesterday during the two-minute siren marking Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, which sounded throughout the country at 10 a.m. Immediately afterward, national ceremonies began, including at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, where wreaths were laid at Warsaw Ghetto Square by President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, IDF Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, representatives of Holocaust survivors and schoolchildren. (Reuters)

Swiss bank whistle-blower seeks new life in US

ZURICH (Reuters) — A night watchman who lost his job after blowing the whistle on a Swiss bank's shredding of old documents amid the search for Holocaust accounts has told a newspaper he has gone to the US to escape death threats and find a job.

"I would prefer to stay in Switzerland, but the people in my country don't understand me," Christoph Meili told the Swiss daily *Le Nouveau Quotidien* from New York in an interview published yesterday. "I am being treated like a criminal."

Meili smuggled documents bound for the shredder out of Union Bank of Switzerland in January and gave them to Zurich Jewish leaders, who alerted prosecutors to a possible violation of a ban on destroying any material that could help find unclaimed wealth.

Meili, who is married and has two children, was suspended from his job by the security firm for which he worked, and later sacked.

UBS says the destruction of old records from a subsidiary it acquired in 1945 was a "regrettable accident" and that no client records were lost that could aid the search for missing assets that Hitler's victims may have deposited in Swiss banks.

Jewish groups hailed Meili, 28, as a hero and held him up as a model of moral courage. But the incident could trigger criminal charges against him of violating banking secrecy. "I don't really feel safe any more," Meili said, noting one

survey found most Swiss did not approve of his action. "We received death threats against us and the children."

Meili said he hoped allies like New York Senator Alfonse D'Amato and the World Jewish Congress could help him make a new life in the US.

In January, the Anti-

Defamation League of B'nai B'rith presented Meili with a golden menorah and \$34,000 to help him cover living expenses and legal fees, but Meili said he had not seen a cent of the money.

"All I know is that my lawyer has used part of it for my defense," he said.

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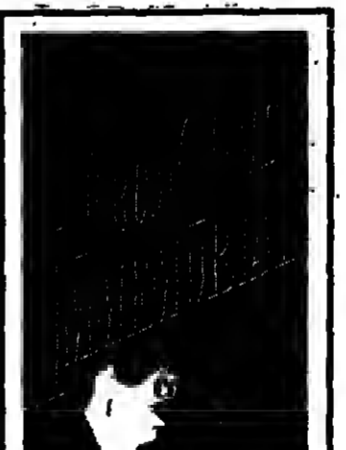
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**We call on all households to
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On Sunday, May 11, sirens for a minute's silence will sound at 11 a.m., at which time, national memorial ceremonies will be held at military cemeteries, and services will take place in cemeteries where the fallen are buried.

Persons bearing weapons, including soldiers, will not be allowed into the cemeteries.

Health fund revision proposed

Fiscal autonomy, British-style options discussed

By DAVID HARRIS
and JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry and Treasury have entered negotiations ahead of a complete shake-up of the health funds, State Budget Director David Milgrom said yesterday.

But Health Minister Yehoshua Matza described Milgrom's statements as an "empty balloon." He denied the two ministries see eye-to-eye on "nationalizing the public health system and health funds" and/or reducing the basket of health services.

While ruling out the repeal of the 1995 National Health Insurance Law, Milgrom said two proposals are being discussed: the establishment of a government health authority, similar to the British National Health Service, or granting financial independence to the health funds, giving them greater responsibility and flexibility.

The second option is favored by Milgrom.

Both ministries are highly concerned at the state of health services currently being offered, according to Milgrom. "The current situation cannot be allowed to continue," he said. "The [1995] law has proven to be a regressive change, turning the health pyra-

mid on its head."

The universal health insurance system is leading to poorer efficiency, increased taxes, and inferior health care standards in some areas, he added. All too often the government has to bail the health funds out.

While the Treasury is concerned by expenditures on the so-called basket of health services, the Health Ministry is in protracted negotiations to increase the health budget.

The current law stipulates that if the basket becomes more expensive than the money raised from taxation, the government will meet the shortfall. This amounts to some NIS 2 billion, seen by the Treasury as a huge burden when it is considering making an additional budget cut.

Speaking from Geneva, where he is attending the World Health Assembly, Matza vigorously denied the Treasury claims. "It is a balloon empty of content, behind which apparently stands a consistent and continuing intention by the Finance Ministry to revoke the National Health Insurance Law," he said.

The Treasury has "intentionally dragged out" for six months discussions with the Health Ministry that are supposed to heal the health system, while adding effi-

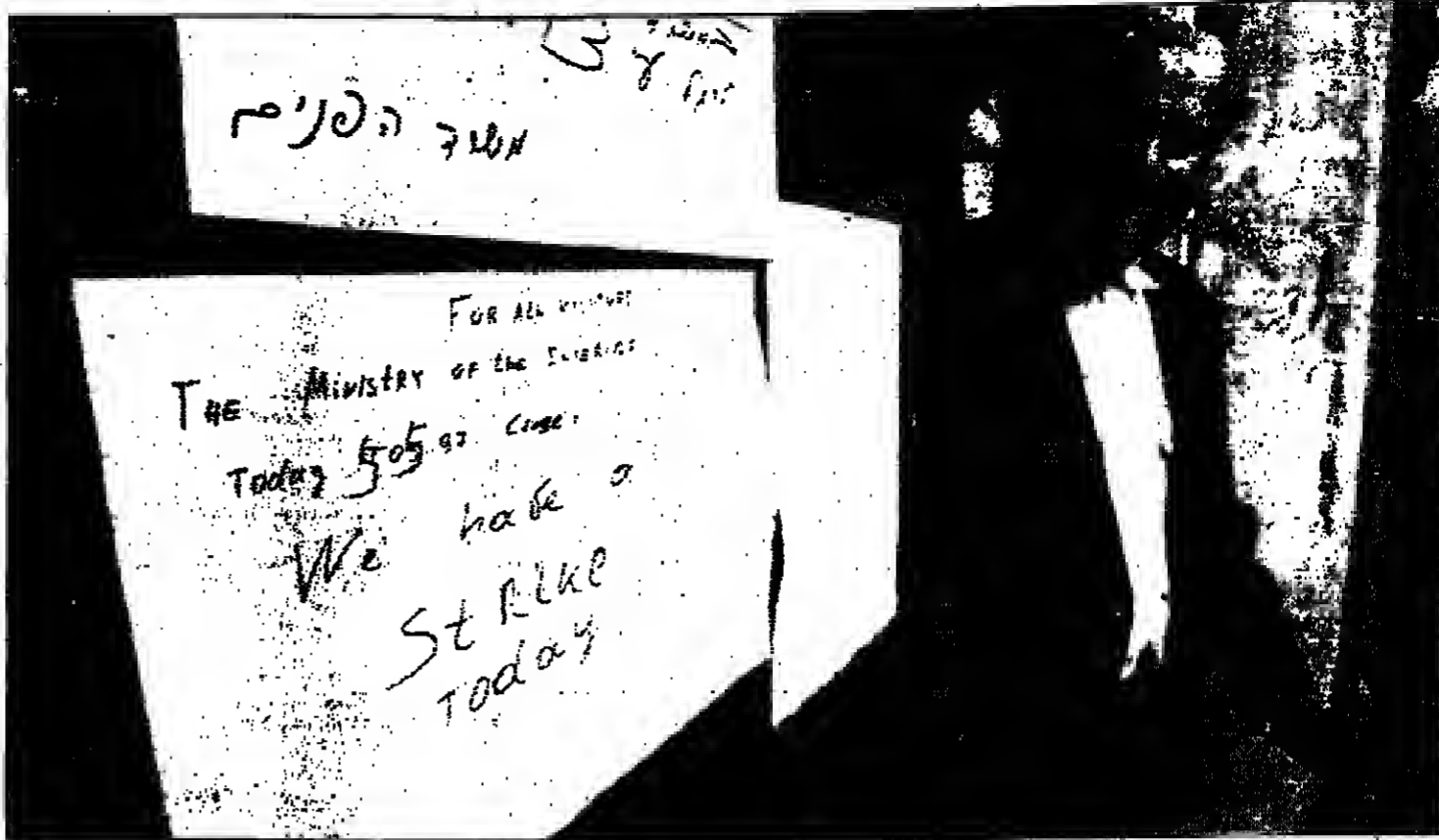
ciency measures and supplying more income, he said.

"The Finance Ministry has purposely delayed for four months the transfer of government subsidies to the health funds and thereby dragged them into deficits that threaten to bring about the collapse of the health system," Matza declared.

He said he would raise the whole issue with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu immediately after his return.

Meanwhile, a Telesaker poll, commissioned by the Phoenix insurance company, has found that 13 percent of the public claim they did not receive medical services and drugs to which they were entitled from their health fund. The health funds, they said, claimed they were not entitled to such treatment under the National Health Insurance Law.

Forty percent of those polled are willing to purchase private health insurance if it costs less than NIS 100 a month, Telesaker said. Today, 9.3% of the population has a private supplementary health insurance policy, compared to only 3% in 1992; this is in addition to the supplementary health insurance offered by their health fund, to which 42% of the public subscribes to.



Security guard Asher Nahum keeps watch yesterday at the Interior Ministry's downtown Jerusalem office, which has been closed since last Wednesday by a labor dispute. (Brian Hender)

Civil servants step up sanctions

By URIEL NEILMAN

Some 10,000 civil servants stepped up their sanctions yesterday, frustrating thousands seeking to use government ministries' services, which have been halted since last Wednesday as a result of a salary dispute.

Those suffering most, maintained one agitated Jerusalemite, are people who need the services urgently, such as those who need to renew their passports to travel abroad or acquire drivers' licenses.

According to Asher Nahum, a security guard at the Interior Ministry in Jerusalem, dozens of

citizens, many of whom were unaware of the sanctions, showed up at the building yesterday morning. Others who came were hoping that they could convince officials to make an exception for them.

Officials at the various ministries say they are only handling emergencies.

"There is a committee that deals with exceptional, life-or-death cases. In these cases, people must show us doctor's orders," said Hana Oren of the Interior Ministry.

The committee has renewed the passport of a woman with pregnancy complications so that she could leave the country and receive necessary medical treatment, Oren said.

However, a group of 63 Catholic pilgrims from India that was supposed to arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport on Saturday was denied entrance into the country because the office that issues entry visas

has been closed since the middle of last week.

Israelis who want to leave the country have encountered similar problems. Ya'akov Avidan said that, because of the sanctions, he cannot even pull out of his driveway.

"I didn't even know there was a strike," he said after being told the Interior Ministry was closed. "I passed my driving test yesterday and I need to get my license and renew my national identity card."

Eva Ben-David has plans to leave for Holland on a family vacation in three weeks, though her trip has been thrown into jeopardy due to the sanctions that have prevented her from acquiring a passport for her four-month-old child.

"Normally there wouldn't be any problem," she said, "but I guess I'll just have to wait and see how long it will take."

Conversion bill yields New Israel Fund support

By HAIM SHAPIRO

In the past year, contributions to the New Israel Fund have increased by 20 percent, apparently as a reaction to the controversy over the conversion bill, which would deny recognition to Reform and Conservative conversion in Israel, NIF director Norman Rosenberg said.

But he is not happy about this. "Trouble in Israel is not good news for us," said Rosenberg.

The NIF, founded in California in 1978, is a supporter of a wide range of Israeli causes, including advocacy for Ethiopian immigrants, civil rights for Israeli Arabs, and women's rights, as well as religious pluralism.

The organization, Rosenberg insisted, is not an alternative to Jewish federation campaigns, although some may perceive it as such. A recent donor survey found that 65 percent of NIF contributors also gave to the federations, and for many that was their main contribution.

However, Rosenberg added, it is no secret that support for Israel is hurting as a result of the conversion bill, which passed its first reading a month ago.

"Day after day we hear people say that it is harder to get support for Israel with this issue around," Rosenberg said.

Menachem Revivi, Israel director of the UJA, admitted that American Jews are very concerned and frustrated over the issue, but said he had no figures at this point which would show whether this had led to a drop in contributions.

"The UJA is trying to say that we

understand and that people should remain involved so that they can continue to influence [Israel] in the long run," Revivi said.

Rosenberg said the issue had provoked the deepest reactions among American Jews since the "Who is a Jew?" furor, and that concern over the conversion bill is greater than that for the peace process.

The reaction, he said, is an emotional one, not necessarily based upon reality. He said he knew the issue is relatively insignificant in the minds of most Israelis, but for American Jews it is a question of whether they are welcome in Israel.

"The question is whether this place is a place which welcomes them and accepts them for what they are," Rosenberg said.

At the same time, Rosenberg questioned the realism of a call by the Conservative and Reform movements to send massive support for their institutions in Israel, in an attempt to build up these movements. For the non-Orthodox movements to become a real force in Israeli society would take more funds and efforts than the movements have at their disposal, Rosenberg said.

"For them to be a real counterforce in Israeli life would take many millions of dollars and much time," he said.

The NIF, he said, is more interested in promoting less conventional expressions of religious pluralism, such as Eilat, the Jerusalem-based institute where religious and secular Jews study together.

"Secular doesn't mean that you aren't interested in Torah, Jewish tradition, and Jewish study," he said.

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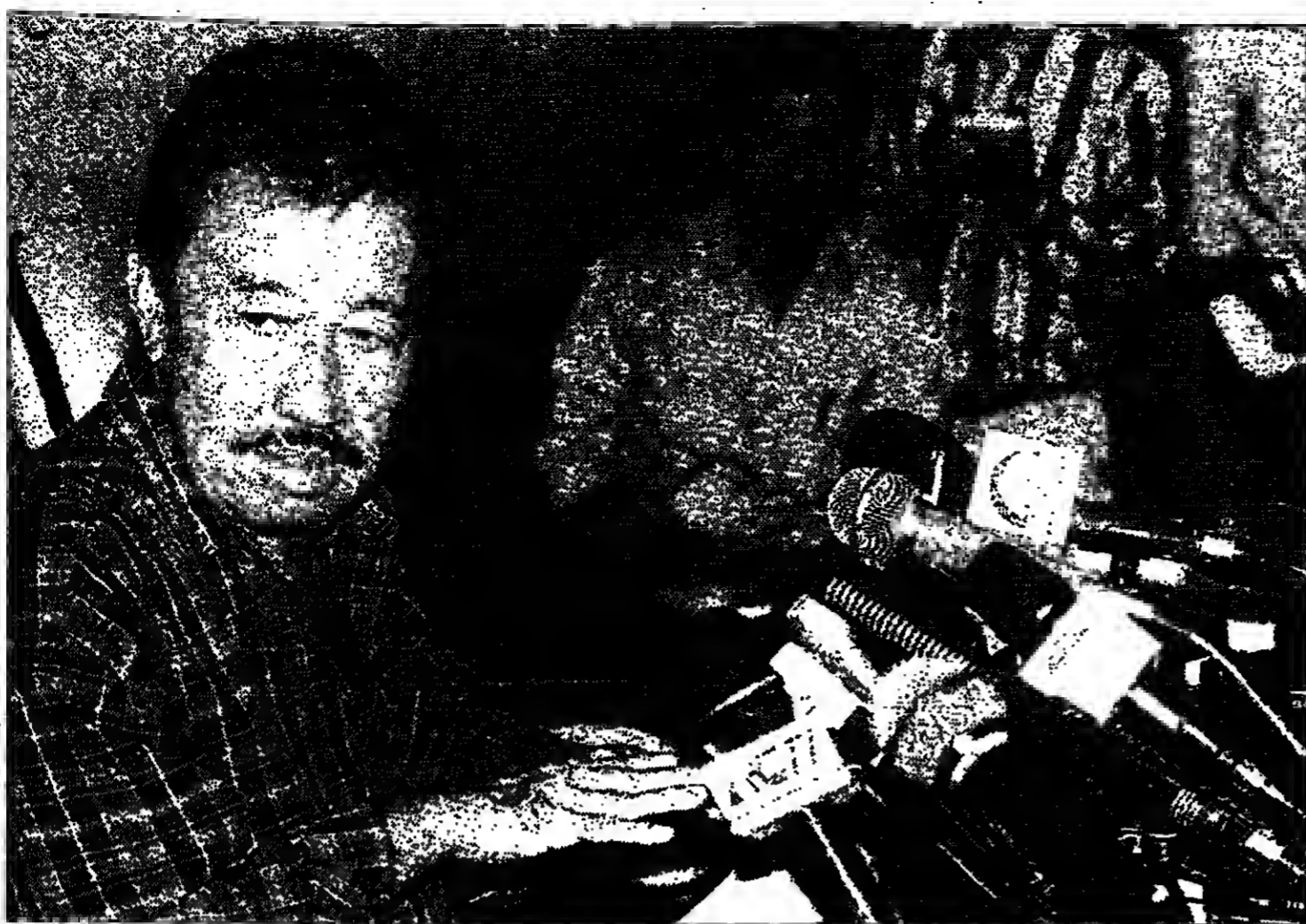
State of Israel
Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
Senior Citizens Service

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice is hereby given of the existence of a fund whose purpose is to help German-born citizens and their descendants.

The fund is designed to help German-born citizens and their descendants purchase rehabilitative or medical equipment or pay for rehabilitative programs, either vocational or educational. Only people who receive old-age pensions with social benefits, disability allowances or supplementary income benefits are eligible.

Applications should be sent to the Fund for German-born Citizens and their Descendants, Senior Citizens Service, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, POB 1260, Jerusalem 91012, enclosing personal details, social report and proof of German descent, plus details of the request and an estimate of cost.



An Indonesian businessman, Bob Hasan, tells reporters in Jakarta that the Canadian mining company Bre-X Minerals should be punished for its alleged role in an unprecedented gold scandal.

Indonesia vows punishment for gold scam

TORONTO (AP) — The tract of Borneo jungle was touted to eager investors as the biggest gold find of the century. Instead, damning new evidence has exposed the supposed mother lode as one of the most audacious scams in mining history.

hle for the tampering. Bre-X, a small Calgary exploration company, had been Canada's biggest stock market sensation over the past three years. Reports that it found up to 70 million ounces of gold at its Busang site attracted a horde of investors.

newspaper, said the gold particles in the Bre-X samples were characteristic of stream-worn and not bedrock gold, the newspaper reported yesterday.

Mobutu lies low in Kinshasa

KINSHASA — Zaire's embattled President Mobutu Sese Seko returned to the capital Kinshasa yesterday following inconclusive weekend talks with rebel leader Laurent Kabila, an aide said.

from Kinshasa's Ndjili international airport, which is 25 km east of the capital. After the first face-to-face meeting with Mobutu on the naval vessel, Kabila said he gave Mobutu eight days to step down. In the meantime, the rebel chief said there would be no cease-fire.

'Deep Blue' defeats Kasparov, ties match

NEW YORK — The supercomputer Deep Blue, playing like a human, has defeated world chess champion Garry Kasparov to tie their six-game re-match at one victory each.

would be proud of." Deep Blue is a 1.95-meter box that can calculate an average of 200 million positions per second, but it demonstrated that it "understood" positional concepts, the experts said.

ognize chess the most, sitting right here," said 12-year-old Samson Benen, a member of the chess team at Manhattan's Hunter College Elementary School.



Chess champion Gary Kasparov makes his move.

Hundreds of chess enthusiasts paid \$25 each to watch Kasparov face off against Deep Blue. Scattered among them were high-tech hackers eager to see the silicon powerhouse pull off an upset.

so effective, because the queen can shift over to B7 ... It's very clear to me that black has to keep this position."

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A symbolic thaw

The signs are multiplying that the Israeli-Palestinian political dialogue, frozen for months, is about to undergo a spring thaw. Most conspicuous among these signs is of course the meeting today between President Ezer Weizman and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat at the Erez crossing.

Apparently rejected a suggestion that Weizman's gesture would again lead to an immediate direct meeting with Netanyahu. Weizman's moves have been well coordinated with Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy. Ross also played a role in bringing about the meeting.

YOU'RE RESIGNING JUST BECAUSE YOU LOST ONE ELECTION?



Triple standards

DAVID FORMAN

I recently spent a Friday evening in a Liberal synagogue while on a visit to the US. The centerpiece of the service was the rabbi's sermon, which was dedicated to the latest events in Israel.

Syria's deadly secret

DANIEL LESHEM

Israeli intelligence analysts have expressed concern and amazement at the rapidity and ease with which the Syrians have been able to obtain the know-how to produce VX nerve gas.

Interview with the New York Jewish weekly The Forward that shipments to Syria of small amounts of nerve gas components had indeed taken place, although according to him these shipments were only intended for "research purposes" and authorized by the Russian government under previously undisclosed terms of a treaty with Syria.

and analysts would be well advised to investigate the possibility that, as Kunzevich claims, the shipment of nerve gas precursors to Syria was part of a secret deal. Such a deal might have been made in the early '90s or late '80s during a visit to Syria by the then-commander of the Russian Chemical Corps, Gen. Pikalov.

What are the motives of US Jews who attack Israel?

His congregation would never tolerate a similar tirade against their president; yet Netanyahu was fair game. No matter what anyone feels about Netanyahu, the rabbi's statement to me was an expression of Jewish cowardice.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WISHFUL THINKING

Sir - In his article "A pernicious utopian virus" (April 14, Professor Codevilla gives examples of America's endemic faith that the world's problems can be fixed by "talks."

Western nations' abasement before Hitler, culminating in Neville Chamberlain's "talks" with the German dictator. Now, as Professor Codevilla points out, we have a home-grown variety in Yossi Beilin, who is quoted as saying: "I want to live in a world where the solution to our existential problem is possible. I have no proof that this is really the case. I am simply not prepared to live in a world where things are unresolvable."

MATRILINEAL DESCENT

Sir - Rabbi Stewart Weiss (April 11) bases his argument against recognition of Reform and Conservative Judaism on the premise that those movements have sought to change rules concerning conversion and matrilineal descent that have been in force for 3,000 years.

us an inkling as to what was required of a convert in Biblical times. The mass conversions of the Edomites and, much later, of the Khazars could not conceivably have involved each individual Edomite or Khazar undergoing the process imposed in modern times by Orthodox authorities.

DISAPPOINTED

Sir - Yosef Goell ("The PM must go now," April 18) thinks that Mr. Netanyahu must go. Amotz Asa-El ("Where did we fail?" April 15) thinks so too. Three or four months ago I did I, but not now.

Causes of Sephardi woe

MELVIN COHEN

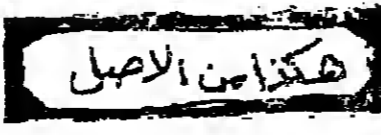
A time of high tension between the country's Sephardi and Ashkenazi communities all concerned should analyze the situation objectively in order to state off what could become a virtual civil war.

works, was in itself an impediment to satisfactory integration and generated profound anger. The absorption methods and techniques were somewhat lacking in intellectual integrity and practical feasibility.

Jerusalem.

Jerusalem.

Jerusalem.



ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table of Israeli shares in New York, including AMEX and NASDAQ listings with last prices and changes.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table of Mishtanim leading 100 TASE issues with last prices and changes.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table of international shares with last prices and changes.

NEW YORK

Table of New York market data with last prices and changes.

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Table of TASE Roundup with last prices and changes.

Table of NYSE with last prices and changes.

Table of NYSE Stocks with last prices and changes.

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WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

German, French shares boosted by Dow

Wall Street Report

Dow hits new record

WHERE TO GO

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

HAIFA

DUTY HOSPITALS

share prices included news that President Ezer Weizman is due to meet Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat in an effort to renew security cooperation and move talks forward.

The general bond index rose 0.10%.

The Dow was up around 25 points when European trading drew to a close.

That rival cigarette maker RJR Nabisco had prevailed against a smoker liability suit in Florida.

Broader stock measures also rallied, boosting several to record highs with the Dow 30.

THE MUSEUM. Andras Szoranyi: The Morgue. Soviet Photography from the Museum collection. Lucian Freud: Sunflower. Portraits: By a group of Israeli artists. Virtual Reality: The domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art. HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART: Shimon Ben-David and Arnon Ben-David. The Inverted Carnival. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerhof Art Education Center, Tel. 08-619165-8.

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